

## BEST AVAILABLE COPY

PATENT

Serial No. 10/509,478

Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on January 10, 2006

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph on page 1, between lines 25-26 of the specification with the following:

~~This object is achieved by a~~ A ~~method as claimed in claim 1 is~~  
provided comprising the steps of:

Replace the paragraph on page 2, between lines 20-22 of the specification with the following:

- reducing the length of each row of said code block by adding row symbols together identical to the method according to said predetermined adding rule used during the method of encoding according to claim 1 resulting in a reduced code block,

Replace the paragraph on page 2, between lines 25-32 of the specification with the following:

Still further, the present invention relates to ~~corresponding~~  
~~apparatuses as claimed in claims 12 and 13, to and~~ a storage medium

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storing data in form of code words of an error correcting code into which an additional layer of error correction is embedded, in particular to an optical record carrier such as a CD, DVD or DVR disc, to a signal comprising data in form of code words as claimed ~~in claim 15~~ and to a computer program comprising program code means for causing a computer to implement the steps of the method of ~~claim 1 or 10~~ when said program is run on a computer. Preferred ~~embodiments of the invention are defined in the dependent claims.~~

Replace the paragraph on page 3, between lines 6-15 of the specification with the following:

When applying the invention to a picket code comprising LDC and BIS code words the LDC code words are preferably first reduced in length before the obtained first intermediate block is enlarged in horizontal direction by adding a predetermined number of symbols having predetermined values giving a second intermediate block. Said second intermediate block will then be used as code block to which the predetermined adding rule is applied for reducing its length as described above. ~~Preferred ways of reducing the length of the LDC code words of the LDC block are described in claims 4 and~~

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~~5. For simplicity's the sake of simplicity,~~ the first intermediate block is enlarged by adding a predetermined number of symbols having symbol value zero to each row in order to slightly reduce the number of required computations.

Replace the paragraph on page 3, between lines 16-22 of the specification with the following:

~~A preferred embodiment for the predetermined adding rule is~~ used for adding row symbols together to reduce the length of each row of the code block ~~is defined in claim 7.~~ The defined adding rule corresponds to a rotation of each row of the second horizontal part of the code block by a different number of symbols before adding a symbol of the first part and the symbol of the second part within the same row and from the same column within the first or second part. This leads to an improved error correction capability of the finally obtained horizontal parities.

Replace the paragraph on page 3, between lines 23-30 of the specification with the following:

The present invention can also advantageously be applied to a

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product code where the code block comprises two blocks of the product code, in particular of a DVD product code. In a preferred embodiment two DVD code blocks comprising DVD product code words such as  $[182, 172, 11]$  code words over  $GF(2^8)$  are combined to form the code block ~~used in the method of embedding as claimed in claim 1.~~ In such an application the obtained horizontal parities are preferably encoded by an additional parity code, e.g. comprising only the  $[192, 182, 11]$  Reed Solomon code words which contain data over  $GF(2^8)$ , and the obtained parities are stored together with the DVD product code words.